Exporting Roland VS Files to Your PC

(This tutorial is based on posts by the developers, FunkyBeat and others found in the VS-Planet forum.)

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Hello to all dedicated Roland VS users!

This year has brought about a major breakthrough for us in terms of connectivity to the outside world. No longer is it a hassle for us to quickly connect to other platforms. No longer is our only viable method for transferring our VS tracks to a computer a "real time 2 track only" process or in the case of the 2480 a slow Track Export to CD-R. We now have the ability to stick a VS backup CD into a PC or connect any hard disk containing VS Songs to the PC and quickly convert all the VS tracks directly into mp3s, 16-bit wavs or 24-bit wavs all at once.

This has all been made possible through the diligent and tireless efforts of VS Planeteers Randygo, Danielo and Bear. The VS Planet is located at:

http://www.vsplanet.com/cgi-bin/ubb/ultimatebb.cgi

Two Methods

1. Import files into *Reaper* and render in the desired format or use *Reaper*
2. Convert VS files directly to .wav files using *VSWaveExport*

For either method you need to first get your VS files onto your PC. This is explained in each section.

Exporting Using the *Reaper* Plug-In

Applications Needed

Cd2Roland tool - VS Backup Ripper tool available at http://w13.easy-share.com/1209451.html

reaper_vs.dll – Reaper VS Plug-in available at http://www.integrand.com/vs/reaper_vs.zip

Reaper – Shareware audio editor program available at http://www.reaper.fm/download.php

System Requirements

Windows XP
Windows 2000
Win2000 Pro

Does not work with ??? OS.
These applications work with PCs only. No Mac support is available. You can try it using *Boot Camp* on your Mac.

Roland Machines Supported

VS-2480, VS-1824, VS-1880, VS-1680, VS-880, VS-880EX, VS-890, VS-840, VS-840EX, VS-840GX

Roland Files Supported

MTP, MT1, MT2, M16, M24, VSR, CDR

Getting Your VS Files on Your PC

Using the CD Ripper tool *Cd2Roland*

This method requires that you get your VS back disk data to your PC. Use Bear's VS Backup Ripper tool *Cd2Roland* to do this.

1. Create a directory (for our example we will use "`C:\test`") and place *Cd2Roland* in it.
   If you don't know how to do that, click on My Computer from the Start menu. Double click on Local Disk C: Then select File > New > Folder so you can create a folder on the C: drive called "test." (Note: It doesn't have to be named "test." Name it whatever you want, but keep it simple and don't forget it.)

2. After the folder is created, copy the file *Cd2Roland* into it.

3. Insert a Roland VS Backup CD into your PC's CD drive.

4. Open a DOS Command prompt.
   In Windows, there is usually one under Start > All Programs > Accessories > Command Prompt. If you don't see one there, another way to get a dos command prompt is to go Start > Run > type `CMD` and press ENTER. For those of you familiar with DOS, these steps will be easy.

5. Change the directory to our “test” folder.
   When you open the DOS command prompt, it will likely be open to Documents and Settings. We need to get it to display "`C:\test>`". The way to do that is by typing "`cd\`" and press ENTER. You will see `C:\>` That is called your "C" prompt. At the C prompt, type "`cd test`" or whatever name you used to create your new folder and then press ENTER.

   It should now say "`C:\test>`"

6. Run the *Cd2Roland* ripper program.
   Do this by typing the name of the program followed by the drive letter of your PC CD drive. For example, if your PC CD drive is letter E, then here you would type:

   ```
   Cd2Roland e
   ```

   and then press ENTER.

   NOTE: For more advanced DOS users, you can specify a different output directory during the ripping process. So, following this example, if you wanted to have the ripper put the files in a directory other than "C:\test", you could specify:

   ```
   Cd2Roland e c:\VSRipper\Files
   ```

At this point, you will see a bunch of text start scrolling in your DOS window. Your PC is now extracting the Roland VS files from the backup CD and placing them in the "test" folder. When it is done, you will get some kind of "finished" or "completed" message on the screen.

See Creating a Batch File for a way to automate this process.

Using the *Reaper* VS Plug-In

1. Download and install *Reaper*.
   Reaper is a multi-track audio editor. It is a Shareware program, but the owner does ask for a $40 payment after 30 days.

2. Download and install the Reaper VS Plug-in.

   All you have to do is open the Reaper VS Plug-in zip file you downloaded and then copy the "reaper_vs.dll" file to:

C:\Program Files\Reaper\Plugins

***Reaper* should not be running while you do this.**

3. Open *Reaper* and choose "Open Project..." from the File menu and select your *song* file. It will be located in your "C:\test" folder. The *song* file will look something like "SONG.VR5."

   The song will then be rendered into *Reaper* as a number of tracks each populated with the appropriate events. You should be able to play the encoded media directly in *Reaper*.

4. You are almost done. At this point, to render your track(s) to .wavs, just select File > Render and then select the options you want. For example:

   Use MONO if you will be rendering individual mono tracks. Use STEREO if you will be rendering a 2 track stereo mix.

   Resample mode: Use the one that best fits what you need. I will always use HIGH QUALITY... but that's just me.

   Render Entire Project: Use that when you want the tracks to be rendered from the START of the song to the END.

   Render Custom: Use that for a specified track length.

   Output file: This is where your file(s) will be stored when the conversion is done. You can change that to whatever location you desire.

   Render Master Mix: This is for rendering a complete 2 track stereo master of your mix.

   Render stems: This is for rendering individual tracks separately.

   Add items to new tracks in project when finished: This will take your newly rendered tracks and insert them into your existing project for further editing if you want.

   Output format: Use this feature to select the desired rendered format. You can set it to mp3s, wavs, etc...

   WAV bit depth: You can set this to 16 bit, 24 bit or 32 bit floating.

   After you make your desired selections, press ENTER or RENDER. The tracks will now be rendered to wavs or whatever you set it to. When done, go to the output file to see your newly converted tracks.

Now wasn't that easy? It really is easy after you get everything initially setup. Once everything is downloaded and set up, it's a piece of cake to render your files.

Creating a Batch File for *Cd2Roland*

Creating a PC batch file automates the ripping steps for you once you have everything installed.

1. Open your text editor. Start > All Programs > Accessories > NotePad.

2. Type in "`cd2roland <drive letter>`" where `<drive letter>` is your PC's CD drive letter: For example, if the drive letter is E, type "`Cd2Roland e`"

3. Click File > Save As... then type "`rip.bat`" and press ENTER. (You just created a .bat file. Now the following is what to do with it.)

4. Copy the Cd2Roland file into the "test" folder you made earlier.

5. Place your newly created .bat file in the same "test" folder with the Cd2Roland file. Close the folder.

6. Right click on your desktop and select New > Shortcut. Click "Browse" and navigate your way to the "test" folder and select the "rip.bat" file and press ENTER. Rename the desktop shortcut whatever you like such as, "VS Tracks Ripper."

You have now created a .bat file and a shortcut to it on your desktop. Put a Roland backup CD in your CD drive and double click on the "VS Tracks Ripper" icon on your desktop and watch the magic begin.

I had started to make a much more complicated one to automatically make subdirectories for each backup set based on the PC clock time, but realized that would not work with multiple CD backups. - Bear

Just remember to move the *song* directories to somewhere before ripping another backup set, or the songs from the two backup sets may get jumbled.... there may be a SONG2 on two different backup sets for instance...

Run all the CDs for one complete backup set, then cut and paste all the SONG directories to another location, then do the second backup set.

Trouble Shooting

I can open files in *Reaper* and convert them with no problems, but if I try to play projects in *Reaper*, I get static over the audio.

Look in Reaper at Options/Preferences/Audio/Device to see what driver is being used. Change it to the input and output device setting of your soundcard driver.

I get the following error messages using *Cd2Roland*:

```
Sending SPC1 Test Unit CDB6 command..failed.
DeviceIOControl returned with failed status.

Drive is not ready!
Aborting process.
Input .iso or .hex File Not Found
```

Install the software program Alcohol found at http://www.alcohol-software.com/

Then uninstall Alcohol. It will ask if you want to "undo" what Alcohol had done to your registry. Click no. The program will uninstall.

If Alcohol won't run on your machine, I have little hope that the raw sector read will work.

If the low level sector read does not work on your machine you can use the *Cd2Roland* to extract Roland files from a .iso image created in another program such as...

Ultaiso at http://www.ezbsystems.com/ultraiso/

or Magiciso at http://www.magiciso.com/tutorials/miso-magicdisc-overview.htm

Just invoke program as:

```
cd2roland (filename.iso)
```

This method will work under Windows 98 also.

Exporting Using *VSWaveExport*

VSWaveExport tool (available at http://www.thegoodlibrary.com/VSWaveExport.html) Note: Link may change as newer Versions will be available. Check the VS Planet for new activity.

This application works with PCs only. No Mac support is available. You can try using *Boot Camp* with your Mac.

You do not need *Reaper* if you are using this software.

Features:

- supports MT2/MTP/M16/M24 formats
- supports 2480, 2400, 1880, 1680 and 880EX
- supports direct hard disk access
- supports VirDis: simply drag .bin or .hdd files into the list
- supports CD-R ripped files (like the *Reaper* plug in): drag SONG files into the list

I recommend to ***not use your main recording HD without having the data backed up****. - Danielo*

Usage:

There are three ways to get your VS Projects to the PC:

1. connect a VS formatted media like a SCSI hard disk, a Song Vault HD or the VS internal HD to the computer or;
2. use VirDis or;
3. burn backup CDs and rip their content into files

Using a Harddisk:

To operate *VSWaveExport* on hard disks it is required that a VS formatted media with the projects in ***playable*** format is connected to the PC. This could be the main VS hard disk, an external SCSI device or a Song Vault disk. *It will not work with projects copied in backup mode or backup CD-Rs!* It might work with 100MB ZIP disks (FAT 12 formatted), due to lack of an SCSI ZIP drive it has not yet been tested.

If the tool reports that there is no VS disk, please check that your bios has identified the disk correctly (maybe you have to adjust master/slave jumpers) and that Windows shows the first 4 partitions (note that the tool can access all 12 partitions). If everything looks correct, you can force the tool to look at a specific partition by dragging the Disk icon (the one you find in the 'My Computer' view of the Windows Explorer) onto the list of Found Roland Drives.

Using VirDis:

To operate on VirDis Files, drag the *.bin or *.hdd file into the list of Found Roland Drives. After storing a file via the VS onto the VirDis, hit F5 in the Wave Export App to refresh the content.

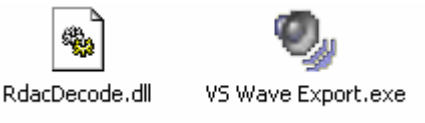
Using ripped files:

To extract the files from your backup CDs, use the *Cd2Roland* utility as described in the *Reaper* section above. After you get your files, drag the SONG file into the list of Found Roland Drives.

The output will be 24-bit waves in case of MTP/M24 - if you have problems opening these, please make sure that your audio software can handle 24-bit waves.

Converting the VS Files

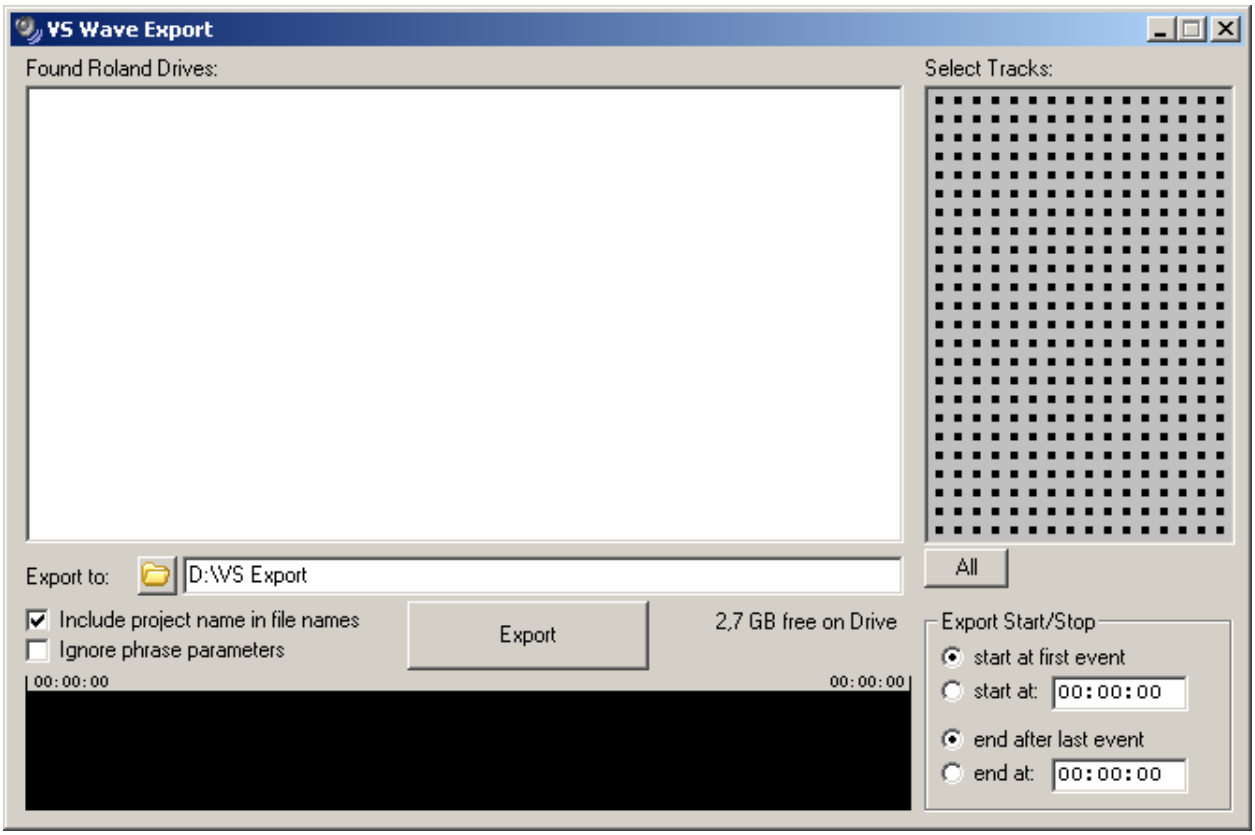
Once downloaded and extracted from the zip, there will be a folder with two files:



It does not matter in which directory you un-zipped the files. Double click *VS Wave Export.exe*. If you do not have a VS hard disk connected to your PC you'll get:

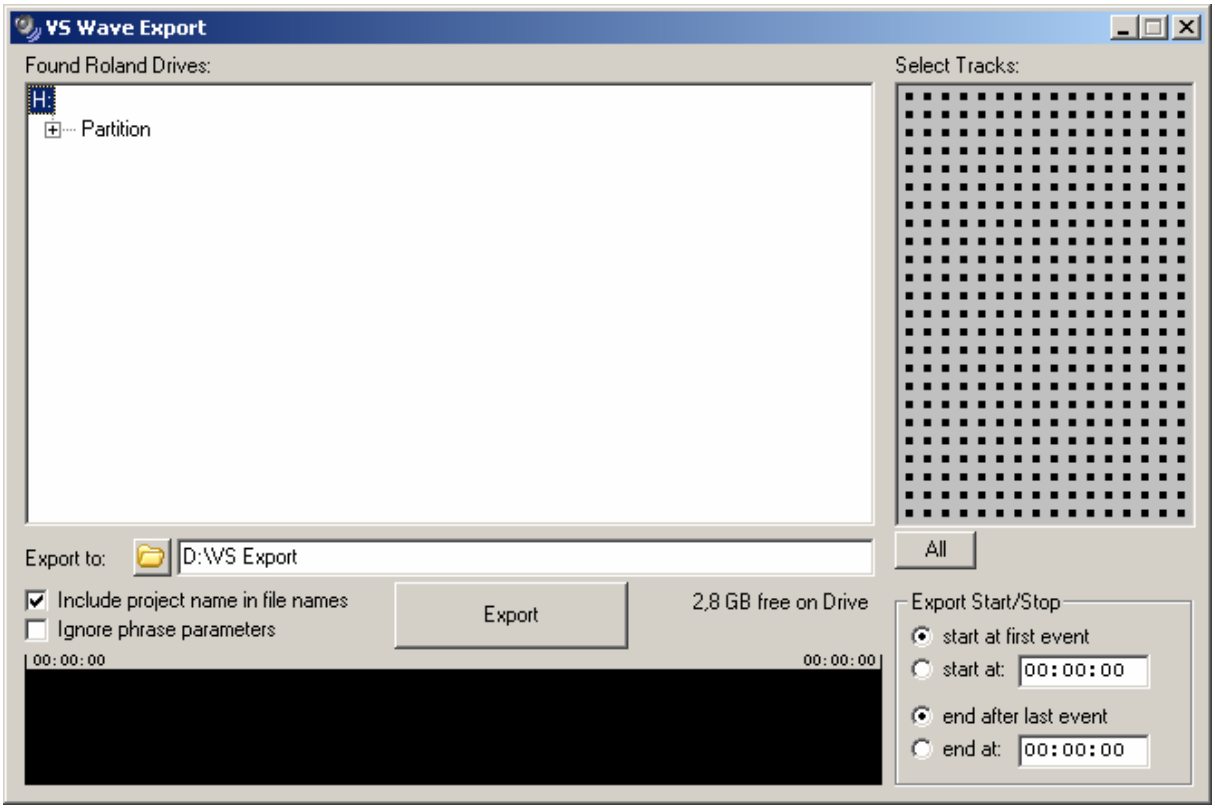
Just click OK.

Next, you will see:

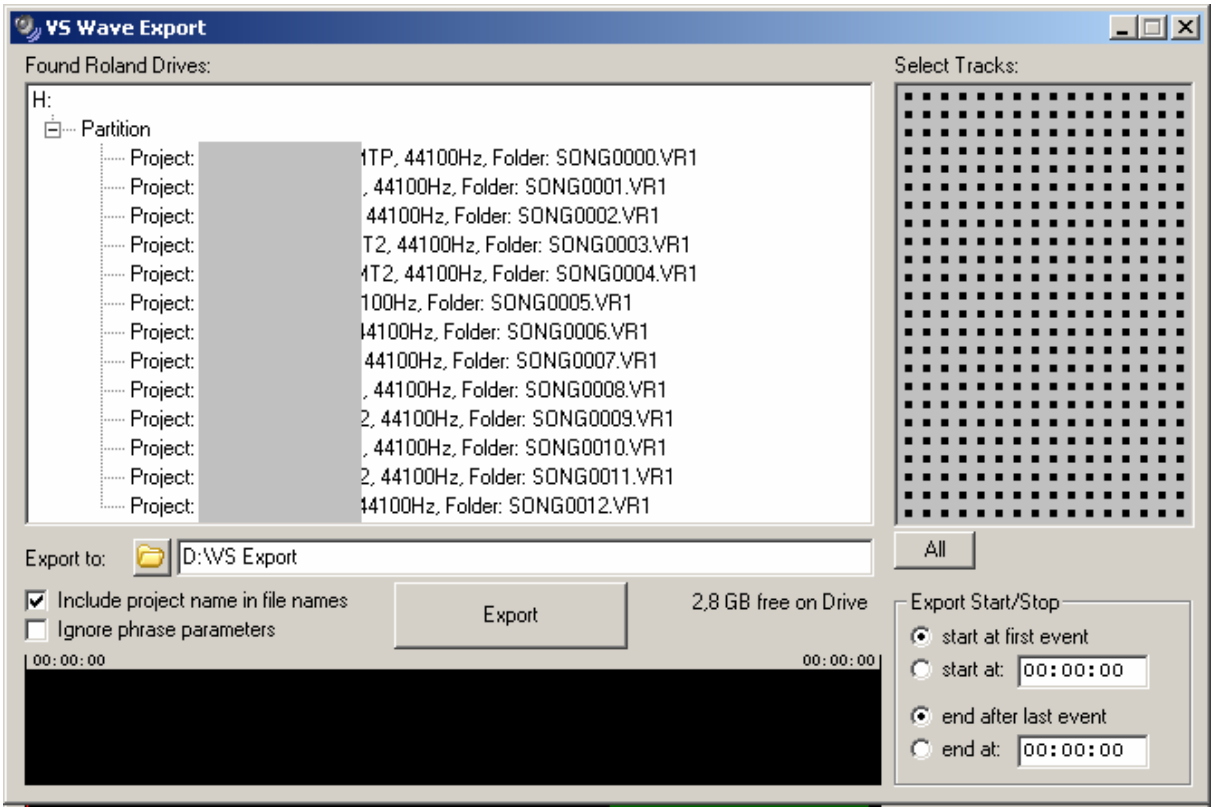


Now open another Windows Explorer window and navigate to where your extracted SONG file or your *VirDis* File is stored. Drag the file (left-click, hold left and move mouse) onto the white box underneath the "Found Roland Drives:" and release the left button.

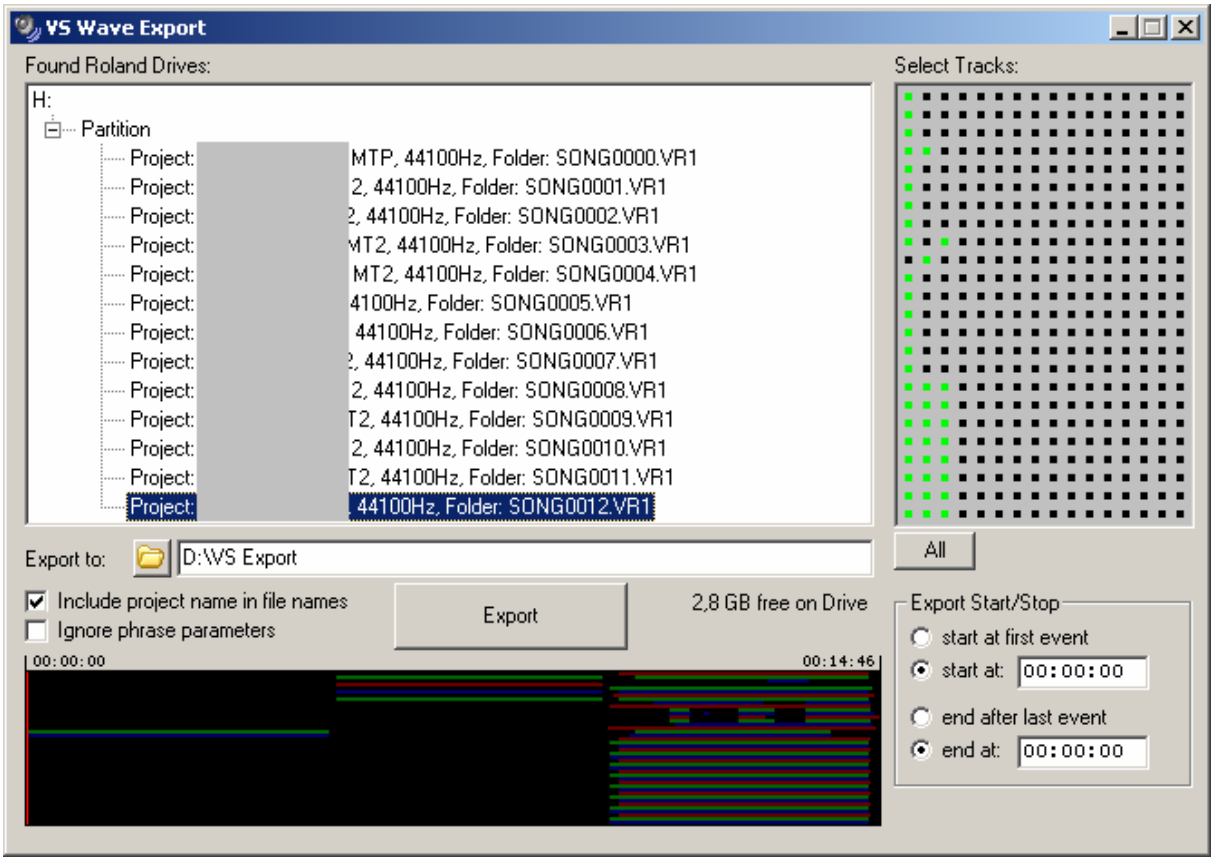
You will get something like this (***does not apply*** if you work on SONGS):



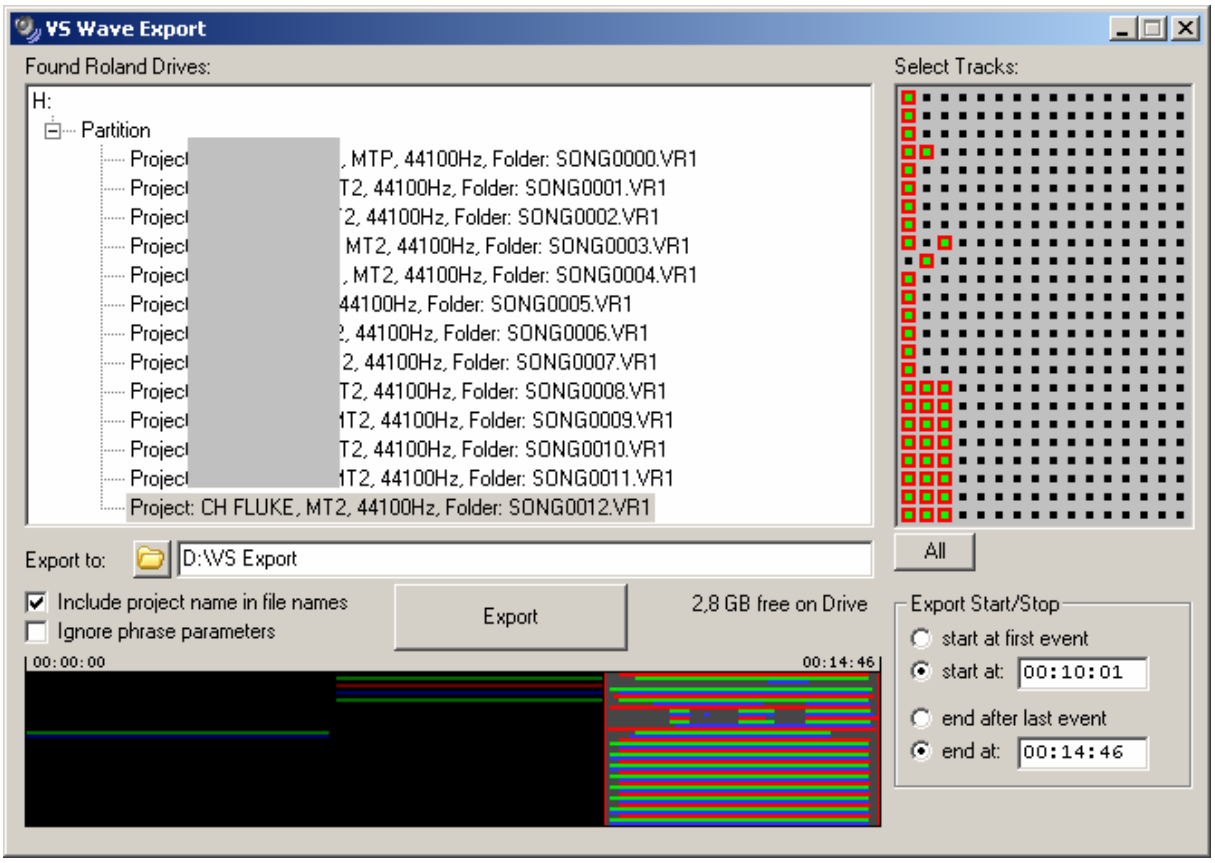
Unfold the Partition by clicking the plus sign (***this does not apply*** if you work on SONGS):



Click on a song (***this does apply*** if you work on SONGS):

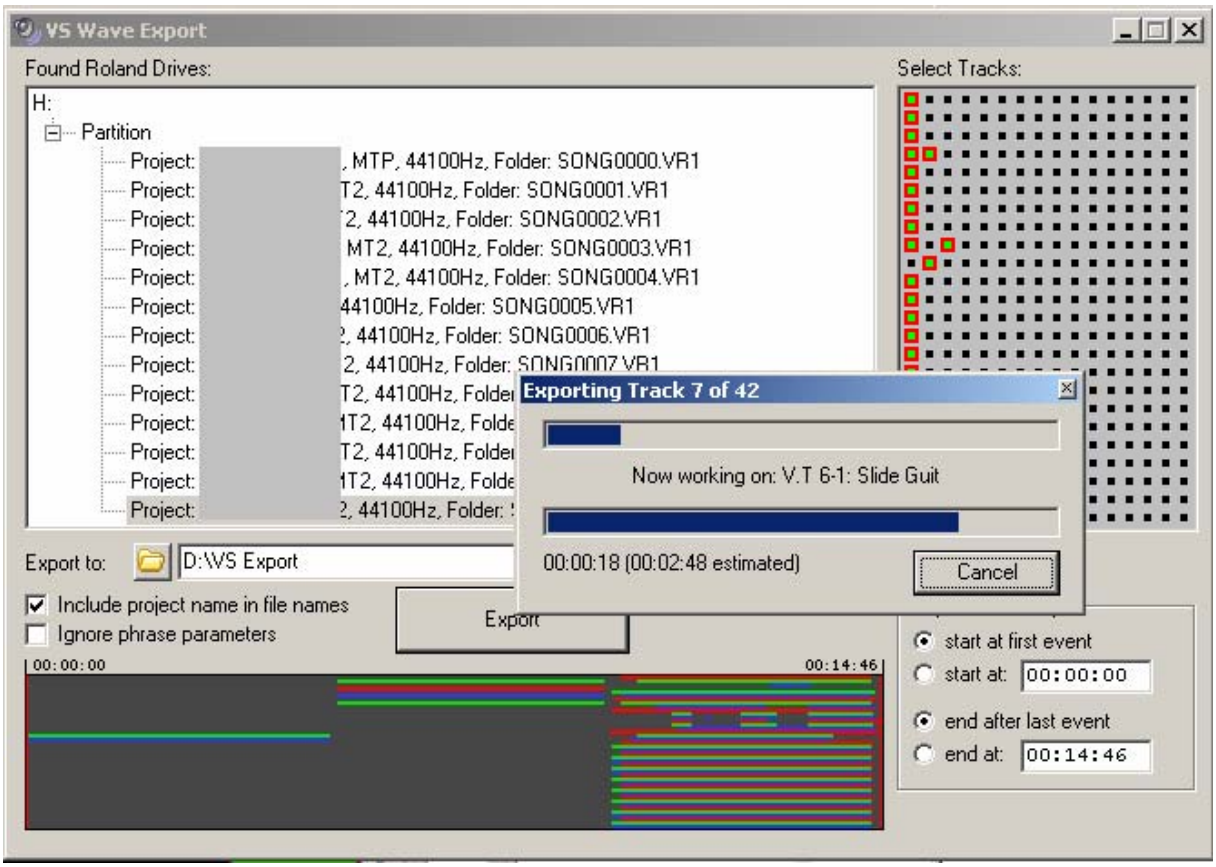


The tracks will now be displayed. Now you can set up your destination directory where you want to put the wav files via the button. You can select Tracks by clicking on the green boxes (used Tracks), or select all by clicking on the ‘All’ button:



Usually the export starts at the start of the first, and ends at the end of the last, event of the selected tracks. However, by selecting ‘start at:’ / ‘end at:’ you can define a start/end time as shown above.

Now click the ‘Export’ button to start conversion:



Your files will be converted. You're done!

Trouble Shooting

In Windows 2000, when I try to run the program I get a message 'The file mscomctl.ocx is either missing or incorrectly installed'

1. Download MSCOMCTL.OCX or find it on someone's PC and copy it.
2. Back up your current copy of MSCOMCTL.OCX (If you have it?) and copy the new version to the same file location. This file should be located in the WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory on your C: drive (for Windows NT and 2000: \WINNT\system32).
3. Using your mouse, click on the "Start" button and then click on "Run".
4. According to your Operating System, type the following command to register this library file:

Windows 95, 98, or Me:
```
regsvr32 \windows\system\MSCOMCTL.OCX
```

Windows NT or 2000:
```
regsvr32 \WINNT\system32\MSCOMCTL.OCX
```

Windows XP:
`regsvr32 \windows\system32\MSCOMCTL.OCX`

5. You should see a message saying "DllRegisterServer ... succeeded"
If you are getting an error telling you that the file is missing, then you are not typing the command in correctly. You will need to type it in *exactly* as shown above for your operating system.

** Please note that there is a SPACE after "regsvr32" and before the rest of the command.*

(Thanks to Paul Miller for the detailed description)

An external SCSI hard disk is connected to the PC, the drive shows up in windows correctly, drive letters like E: F: are displayed, but the tool reports "No Roland Device found!"

For some reasons SCSI devices might not be accessible as physical drives. In this case, try dragging one of the drive letters into the white box underneath 'Found Roland drives:'. The tool should now display the content of the VS formatted drive.

A window named ‘Output:’ appears with strange messages

In this case, some entries in the EVENTLST are not as they usually are. The EVENTLST format is not 100% understood, I would be interested to look into these messages. - Danielo